

Message Text

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62

ACTION IO-14

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TAGS: UNIDO, EAID, AFIN, AORG

SUBJECT: UNIDO GROUP B MEETING

REF: (A) VIENNA 7678; (B) VIENNA 7640

SUMMARY: GROUP B MET ON SEPT. 3 AND EXCHANGED VIEWS AND INFORMATION ON UNIDO'S CURRENT FINANCIAL SITUATION, PREPARATIONS FOR UNIDO-II (REF A), THE QUESTION OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTORSHIP OF UNIDO AND THE RECENT REORGANIZATION OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S OFFICE (VIENNA A-423). AFTER CHOOSING CHAIRMAN FOR THE MEETING, GROUP ALSO DISCUSSED BRIEFLY POSSIBLE ARRANGEMENTS FOR CHAIRMANSHIP OF GROUP B FOR THE NEXT FEW MONTHS. END SUMMARY.

1. GROUP B MET SEPT. 3 AND ELECTED BRUYNS (NETHERLANDS) AS CHAIRMAN UNTIL NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR THE FIRST WEEK IN OCTOBER. DISCUSSION OF ARRANGEMENTS FOR GROUP B CHAIRMANSHIP FOR THE FOLLOWING MONTHS SHOWED CONSENSUS FOR CONTINUITY IN PC-V. WHETHER INCUMBENT (OR COUNTRY HE REPRESENTS IF HE WERE REPLACED BY MORE SENIOR PERSON AT LIMA) WOULD SERVE THROUGH LIMA MEETING WAS LEFT OPEN FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION AFTER DIFFERENT VIEWS EXPRESSED ON THIS POINT. CHOICE OF CHAIRMAN TO BE MADE BY OCTOBER MEETING WILL THEREFORE BE IMPORTANT.

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GIVEN RECENT AND PROSPECTIVE TRANSFERS AND FOR OTHER REASONS,

CHOICE NOW APPEARS TO BE AMONG FRG, UK AND US.

2. UNIDO FINANCIAL SITUATION: GROUP HAD BEFORE IT THE SUMMARY OF DAVIDSON'S REPLY TO ABDEL-RAHMAN REPORTED REF B. DURING ENSUING GENERAL EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AND COMMENTS, SPEAKERS, WHILE RECOGNIZING NEED FOR SUPPLEMENTAL TO COVER INFLATION AND EXCHANGE RATE COSTS, WERE CRITICAL OF UNIDO MANAGEMENT. ON QUESTION OF SUPPLEMENTAL, WHILE NOTING THAT DETERMINATION OF PRECISE US POSITION WOULD HAVE TO AWAIT SUBMISSION AND JUSTIFICATION OF SUPPLEMENTAL BY SYG, WE TOOK LINE EMBODIED IN PARA 26 OF STATE 187723. GENERAL FEELING WAS THAT AT THIS STAGE THERE WAS LITTLE THAT GROUP B SPECIFICALLY COULD DO. QUESTION OF POSITION TO BE TAKEN AT 29TH GA ON REQUEST FOR UNIDO SUPPLEMENTAL AND HOW TO DEAL WITH OVERHEAD DEFICIT PROBLEM WOULD HAVE TO BE GIVEN FURTHER CONSIDERATION. FRG WONDERED WHETHER, IF THERE WERE A CHANGE IN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AT THE END OF 1974, SYG SHOULD BE ASKED TO PROVIDE FOR A MANAGEMENT SURVEY OF UNIDO TO HELP PUT THE ORGANIZATION ON A "SENSIBLE BASIS." SINCE SEVERAL MEMBERS WERE NOT CLEAR AS TO THE PRECISE PROCEDURE CURRENTLY BEING FOLLOWED ON TIMING AND CALCULATION OF OVERHEAD PAYMENTS TO UNIDO, THE US, UK AND FRG WERE ASKED TO BE A WORKING PARTY TO CONSULT WITH THE SECRETARIAT AND REPORT TO THE NEXT GROUP B MEETING ON THIS GENERAL SUBJECT. GROUP WILL ALSO EXPLORE SECRETARIAT'S FORECASTS AS TO WHAT MAY BE EXPECTED TO HAPPEN ON OVERHEAD ACCOUNT OVER THE NEXT YEAR.

3. ON QUESTION OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, THERE WAS NO NEW INFORMATION. (WE DID NOT REFER TO POSSIBLE YRIART CANDIDACY). TWO REPS (AUSTRIA AND NETHERLANDS) RAISED QUESTION WHETHER, WITH ABDEL-RAHMAN'S CURRENT APPOINTMENT ENDING, PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH POST OF DEPUTY DIRECTOR SHOULD NOT AGAIN BE RAISED WITH WALDHEIM. QUERY GAVE RISE TO INCONCLUSIVE DISCUSSION. UK ASKED WHETHER GROUP B HAD ANY CLEAR VIEW OF WHAT IT WISHED TO HAVE HAPPEN ON THE MATTER OF ABDEL-RAHMAN'S SUCCESSOR OR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WHETHER IT WAS CONTENT TO ASSUME A LARGELY PASSIVE ROLE. A NUMBER OF DELEGATES EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT IT WAS BEST TO LEAVE THE MATTER TO THE SYG AT THIS STAGE RATHER THAN HAVING GROUP B AS SUCH BE TOO ACTIVE. WE NOTED OUR CONCERN THAT WALDHEIM MAKE CAREFUL CHOICE OF INDIVIDUAL TO SUCCEED ABDEL-RAHMAN.

4. AS REGARDS RECENT REORGANIZATION OF EXECUTIVE

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE, VARIOUS SPEAKERS NOTED STRONG POSITION OF AFIFI IN THE ORGANIZATION. SOME REPS FELT THAT NO REALLY GOOD CASE EXISTED FOR PLACING THE FIELD SUPPORT UNIT (NOW RAISED TO THE LEVEL OF A SECTION) IN THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AS AGAINST KEEPING IT IN TCD.

5. AS MENTIONED ABOVE, NEXT GROUP B MEETING SCHEDULED FIRST WEEK IN OCTOBER.STIBRAVY

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